

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph no. 2 on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:**

In the medical field and the like, there are cases where radiation image data is obtained from a radiation image of an object recorded on a photographic film, stimuable phosphor sheet and the like, suitable image processing is carried out on the image data and an image is reproduced on a display on the basis of the processed image data. Recently there have been developed various computer-aided digital image processing techniques, ~~and there have been put into practice, as a device for forming a diagnostic image,~~ Also, various image input devices (image forming modality) such as a CT (computed tomography) apparatus, a MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) apparatus, a CR (computed radiography) apparatus and the like are used for forming diagnostic images.

**Please replace the first full paragraph on page 2, bridging page 3 with the following amended paragraph:**

In the abnormal shadow detection processing, the digital image signal is analyzed by a computer to automatically detect a prospective abnormal shadow which is conceivable to represent a growth, a micro calcification or the like, ~~and the~~ The detected prospective abnormal shadow is marked to call the attention of the reader, ~~or~~ Alternatively, the probability that the prospective abnormal shadow represents a genuine abnormality or the feature value or the index on the basis of which ~~the~~ a part of ~~the~~ an image is determined to be a prospective abnormal shadow is output, whereby a certain detecting level can be ensured irrespective of the skillfulness of the reader, and overlooking or misreading can be suppressed.